

AMENDMENTS

In the specification

Please amend the paragraph on page 1 that spans lines 4-7 as follows: ¹

C1 This is a continuation-in-part of PCT/US98/19191, filed on September 11, 1998 which claims benefit from prior U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/079,384 filed on March 26, 1998 and prior U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/058,786 filed on September 12, 1997.

In the claims

Please cancel claims 37 and 47 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C2 36. (Amended) A method of treating, suppressing or altering the progression of a cancer comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of an antibody directed to an APRIL ligand polypeptide capable of interfering with an interaction between said APRIL ligand polypeptide and an APRIL receptor.

Sub D1- 39. (Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein said antibody is administered to said patient in combination with a chemotherapeutic agent.

¹ Applicant has attached hereto at Tab A an Appendix of Amendments which illustrates the amendments to the specification in the bracket and underline format.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said antibody is administered to said patient in combination with a radiation therapy.

41. (Twice Amended) A method of suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL ligand polypeptide, comprising the step of exposing said cell to an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of:

Sub
D1
a. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;

b. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1-55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;

c. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157-250 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;

d. an antibody that binds specifically to SEQ ID NO:2 or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof; and

e. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide and blocks an interaction between said APRIL ligand polypeptide and an APRIL receptor polypeptide.

42. (Twice Amended) A method of suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL receptor polypeptide, comprising the step of exposing said cell to an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of:

a. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;

Sub
D1
b. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1-55 of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof;

C3
c. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157-250 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;

d. an antibody that binds specifically to SEQ ID NO:2 or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof; and

e. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide and blocks an interaction between said APRIL ligand polypeptide and said APRIL receptor polypeptide.

C3
43. (Amended) A method for treating cancer comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody directed to an APRIL ligand polypeptide capable of interfering with an interaction between said APRIL ligand polypeptide and an APRIL receptor.